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WITNESS

Boris Ikowicz, born July 18, 1909 in Poland, current address 84-04 Daniels Street, Briarwood, N.Y. 11435, retired jeweler by profession, married, with two daughters.

RESCUER

The Konieczny family: Parents, deceased, daughter Marisia, deceased, another daughter, Honoreta, living in Poland, and their brothers, Mieczyslaw and Piotr, also living in Poland, on a farm.

I met the Konieczny family after my brother-in-law, Sidney Olmer, approached them and requested that they help our family. They agreed to hide nine people for the duration of the war. We arrived on their farm in September 1943, and remained hidden till April 1945. The farm was located near the village of Dzieronznia, in central Poland. The hiding hole we were given was under the stable, a hole approximately 6'x10'x5' high. Six of us lived in there. There was another hole, similar to ours, under the barn. It held three people. We had no artificial light, no ventilation; we had a peep-hole the size of a pencil which allowed to see if it was night or day, and to hear voices from the outside. None of us, save the children, could stand fully erect under the roof of the hole. We had just enough room to lie down to sleep, spoon-fashion, on straw. The Konieczny family did nothing out of the ordinary for us. They gave us food, water, and shelter, always aware that any deviation from their ordinary life style would call attention to them, and to our existence. They gave us life itself. They never denounced us, or gave us away. We had a close call, however,

when the Polish Police, accompanied by a German officer, came to search the farm for Jews. They had heard from one of the neighboring farmers that a Jew was seen on the farm. It was Honorota who saved our lives. She convinced the police and the German that there was no truth to the story. They believed her and never returned.

We paid for our safety with money and what valuables we had. Six months before the end of the war, we had no way to pay: our money and valuables ran out. We were not thrown out to a certain death. Although we had no way of knowing when the war would end, we knew that we would survive.

Maciej Konieczny was a rich farmer who owned a 44 acre farm, so financial gain was not a motive, although in those days every little bit helped. The risk to his and his family's life was very real. They would have been killed had we been found, buried in the same ditch with us. There was no need for a cover-story. No one knew of our existence there under the stable and the barn. During the time we remained hidden, we were treated fairly. When the war ended, we stayed in contact and remained good friends, even to this day.

The other eight people whose lives were saved by this family are:

Lola and Sidney Olmer --my sister and brother-in-law
45 Hobart Street
New Haven, CT 06511

Leonard Olmer --their son.
618 Woodridge Dr.
Fern Park, FLA 32730

Toby Crystal --Sidney's sister
Toronto, Canada

Zelig Frenkel
ISRAEL

Usher Raffalovitz
ISRAEL

Mr. and Mrs. M. Lauffer
Florida

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and Myself.

The Konieczny family did everything in their power to save our lives. To do that, they had to live their lives as they had before they took us in, so as not to arrouse suspicion against themselves. They saved our lives: for that we will be eternally grateful to all of them.

Boris Ikowicz

Boris Ikowicz
84-04 Daniels Street
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